



ERHS Basketball, p.11



Black History Event, p.12

## Greenbelt Youth Musical: Buried Treasure this March

by Rebecca Squire

The Greenbelt Youth Musical, an annual Greenbelt tradition for 25 years, is presenting its 2024 show, *Buried Treasure*, at the Community Center on March 2, 3 and 9. This year's cast features 23 young actors, ranging in age from sixth grade to college.

*Buried Treasure* is the story of three young high school students – Josh, Harriet and Miranda – who fall down an abandoned mineshaft into a mythical underground realm, where their treasured surface notions of themselves are challenged at every turn. The three become separated underground and their ensuing solo adventures entail some valuable, albeit painful, lessons.

Josh, who longs for a heroic quest like the dashing knights of yore, learns that true heroism is often unthanked and unglamorous, and that it begins with acknowledging that he is mortally afraid of the dragons he is sent to confront.

Harriet, who desires to possess the wisdom of a wizard, is abashed to realize that the intellect on which she prides herself is not superior to that



PHOTO BY JUDY GOLDBERG-STRASSLER

Writer and director Christopher Cherry directs *Buried Treasure* cast members Kira Wilkinson, Caspaen Jackson and Leo Casalini during rehearsal.

of the open-hearted Dunstan, a handsome young gnome whom she teaches to read in hopes of decoding a book of magic spells.

Miranda, who seeks the path of perfection, believes herself to be a thoroughly good person, but as a gang of underworld urchins points out, although Miranda says she's good, what she really thinks is that she's better than others –

a case where being better is far worse than being good.

Alternately touching and funny, the trio's adventures all culminate in a climactic scene in the palace of the Golden Prince, who has usurped the throne of Sophia, the rightful queen of the underworld. But not everyone in

See **MUSICAL**, page 6

## City Council Moves to Track State and County Legislation

by Michael Zeliff

At its February 12 meeting, the Greenbelt City Council took up issues connected to the State Legislative Assembly. The meeting also included discussion of facilities around Greenbelt, approval of funds to plan for high-speed internet in Greenbelt, the tracking of state and county legislation, and a report on electric vehicles (EVs) and charging stations in the city. A future council story will discuss the internet, sustainable communities and EVs, among other topics.

**Tracking Legislation**

Council then turned to the proposal made by City Manager Josué Salmerón that Greenbelt hire the consulting firm Carington & Associates for \$24,000 plus expenses per year to help keep the city informed about legislation being considered at county and state levels. Mayor Emmett Jordan explained that the purpose here is, for example, to help council identify among the 3,000 bills now up for consideration by the state legislature those important to Greenbelt. Councilmembers Jenni Pompei and Danielle McKinney expressed concern about entering this contract without first meeting with company representatives to make sure they understand Greenbelt's

needs and interests. Councilmember Kristen Weaver emphasized the need for more information about proposals being considered by the Prince George's County Council. Councilmember Rodney Roberts stated his opposition, explaining that many of the 3,000 state bills do not affect Greenbelt and that council should and can obtain this information from county and state officials for itself. Resident Bill Orleans agreed with Roberts and resident Leon Schachter asked if council had ever felt this need for a consultant before. Jordan answered yes, council has been blindsided on pending legislation, and explained that while councilmembers and staff do work with other officials, they still need this outside advice. Resident Connie Jones supported the proposal as stated. In response, then, noting that the state legislature meets from January to April so that the present session is well underway in Annapolis, council added a six-month review and approved the contract, with only Roberts voting nay.

**Land Use**

In a related discussion, council examined three current pieces of proposed legislation, the first one being considered by Prince George's County, which would

give its municipalities slightly more power to control land use within their jurisdictions. Jordan explained, for example, that council had voted to oppose Royal Farms' development of land on Greenbelt Road beside the Honda dealership into an auto service center and convenience store, so the developer turned to the county planning board and received permission that overrode council's opposition. Recognizing that the bill under consideration

See **COUNCIL**, page 6

### What Goes On

**Monday, February 26**  
7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building

**Tuesday, February 27**  
7 p.m., Greenbelt Police Community Meeting, Community Center.

**Wednesday, February 28**  
7:30 p.m., Council Worksession: Religious/Spiritual Organizations, Municipal Building

See the meetings calendar on page 5 or visit [greenbeltmd.gov](http://greenbeltmd.gov) for more information.

### Black History Month

## Re-Enactors of Distinction Tell Story of Charlotte Scott

by Lois Rosado



PHOTO BY ROBIN OLSON

**FREED performers from left: Marcia Cole, Joyce Bailey, Patricia Tyson and Lavinia Broadnax**

On February 14, the room was packed and there was great excitement about the program that was about to unfold. The Golden Age Club had asked the Female Re-enactors of Distinction (FREED) to perform in an acknowledgement of Black History Month in Greenbelt. The all-women group is part of the African American Women of the Civil War Auxiliary Organization whose aim is to "educate

and celebrate the accomplishments of the women and African American Civil War Soldiers who fought for freedom."

**Charlotte Scott**

In Greenbelt's Community Center, Marcia Cole, playing Charlotte Scott, stepped forward to tell her story. Charlotte was enslaved by the Scott family and married to an enslaved man who

See **FREED**, page 8

## ARPA Brings Funds for Many Recreational Upgrades in City

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On February 7, the Greenbelt City Council met for a worksession focused on an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) update. ARPA, established in March 2021, brought federal money to municipalities to help local communities like Greenbelt recover from the short- and long-term impacts of Covid. The worksession included discussion of recreation facilities and calls for equity in their provision throughout the city.



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

**"I'm getting aggravated sitting there listening to all this money going here, there, everywhere and peanuts coming over [this] way," said Kevin Lockhart.**

Greenbelt received almost \$23 million in ARPA funding, in what Assistant City Manager Timothy George described as a once-in-a-lifetime event. A lot of the projects funded by council originated from residents, said George, who stressed the number of meetings and amount of engagement with

residents during the process of allocating funds.

Among the items funded from the influx of ARPA money are recreational facilities upgrades. Completed projects include \$50,000 for tennis court resurfacing, \$35,000 for HVAC at the

See **ARPA**, page 7



# Letters to the Editor

## Another DKFI Aspect

The Dora Kennedy French Immersion (DKFI) community recently learned about PGCPs’ plan to have the program vacate its current location in Greenbelt and move to the former Kenmoor Middle School. Others have commented on the demolition of an historic building. I support their perspective and offer comment on another aspect of this issue. Greenbelt currently enjoys two of the county’s top educational institutions – DKFI for K-8, and Eleanor Roosevelt as a premier science and technology magnet high school. Those excellent schools, coupled with proximity to the Metro, Goddard, BARC, University of Maryland’s flagship campus and associated burgeoning technology corridor, and the possible new opportunities with the slated FBI headquarters relocation, show great promise for the future of Greenbelt as a thriving, diverse neighborhood in which to raise a family.

When working families look to secure housing, they strike a balance across strong schools,

a robust community, a vibrant restaurant and entertainment scene that draws from beyond the town’s borders and generates revenue, and proximity to transportation options. Our family has lived in Greenbelt for 20 years and I have always felt that Greenbelt could achieve that and be a sought-after community for families to establish roots and grow. That, in concert with the already vibrant community vibe, is a winning combination.

As a family with a DKFI student, we are concerned about the news of a move for a number of reasons: lack of community input during planning; recently shared information that suggests that the plan to demolish the facility was known prior to DKFI moving into Greenbelt in 2014; and the vulnerabilities the move presents for Greenbelt to attract and retain professional families seeking to invest in, and grow, the community as a desirable place to live.

If the current location was never intended as a permanent

See **LETTERS**, page 8



Greenbelt Cinema  
129 Centerway  
301-329-2034  
www.greenbeltcinema.org

Members Always \$6.50!  
Member kids are always FREE!

Adults \$9, Kids \$6,  
Senior/Student/Military \$8

All shows before 5 PM:  
Adults \$7, Kids \$5

**OC = Open Captions**  
**CC = Closed Captions**  
**DVS = Descriptive Video Service**

**SHOWTIMES:**  
**FEBRUARY 23rd - 29th**  
**Animated Oscar Shorts**  
**(2024) (80 mins)**  
Rating equivalent of PG-13/R for adult themes  
**Screen 1 - Main Auditorium**  
Mon. 12:00 PM,  
Tues. 8:00 PM  
**Screen 2 - The Screening Room**  
Fri. 8:15 PM, Sat. 5:30 PM  
Sun. 12:30 PM, Wed. 6:00 PM  
Thurs. 2:30 PM

**Live Action Oscar Shorts**  
**(2024) (140 mins)**  
Rating equivalent of R for adult themes  
**Screen 1 - Main Auditorium**  
Sat. 5:00 PM  
**Screen 2 - The Screening Room**  
Sun. 2:30 PM, Mon. 4:00 PM  
Tues. 7:30 PM  
Thurs. 7:30 PM

**Documentary Oscar Shorts**  
**(2024) (141 mins)**  
Rating equivalent of PG/PG-13  
**Screen 1 - Main Auditorium**  
Fri. 4:45 PM, Mon. 2:00 PM  
Wed. 7:30 PM  
Thurs. 4:00 PM  
**Screen 2 - The Screening Room**  
Sat. 7:45 PM, Sun. 5:30 PM

**The Taste of Things** (PG-13) (CC) (DVS) (2024) (145 mins)  
French w/ English subtitles  
**Screen 1 - Main Auditorium**  
Fri. 8:00 PM  
Sat. 8:00 PM  
Sun. 2:00 PM, 5:00 PM  
Mon. 5:00 PM  
Tues. 5:00 PM  
**Screen 2 - The Screening Room**  
Fri. 5:00 PM, Sat. 2:30 PM  
Mon. 1:00 PM, Wed. 8:00 PM  
Thurs. 4:30 PM

**Safety Last!** (NR) (1923) (64 mins)  
With live music accompaniment by Andrew E. Simpson!  
**Screen 1 - Main Auditorium**  
Sat. 1:00 PM

**Rules of the Game** (NR) (1939) (110 mins)  
Film in Focus  
Led by Dr. Caroline Eades  
Must Register Online  
**Screen 2 - The Screening Room**  
Mon. 7:00 PM

**The Tower Road Bus** (NR) (2021) (67 mins)  
With a post-screening panel discussion  
**Screen 1 - Main Auditorium**  
Thurs. 7:00 PM

## The Old Curmudgeon



“Well, how is Mr. ‘I’ll Get A Flu Shot Later’ doing?”

- News Review, January 13, 2000

## Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1887  
Phone: 301-474-4131

editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com (stories, letters, photos)  
ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com (ads)  
business@greenbeltnewsreview.com (billing)  
website: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

Presidents: Alfred M. Skolnik, 1959-1977, Elaine Skolnik, 1977-1985

Mary Lou Williamson, Editor  
Anna Bedford-Dillow, Managing Editor

### STAFF

Alex Barnes, Ann Bauman, Kathryn Beard, Anna Bedford-Dillow, Judy Bell, Laura Bonkosky, Letty Bonnell, Jerry Bonnell, Alan Burt, Rasheeda Childress, Jill Connor, Maurice Crawford, Deborah Daniel, Deanna Dawson, Christine Doran, Anne Gardner, Elizabeth Gardner, Jon Gardner, Jim Giese, Ian Gleason, Patrick Gleason, Carol Griffith, Kyla Hanington, Amy Hansen, Erik Hanson, Butch Hicks, Peggy Higgins, Donna Hoffmeister, Melanie Iversen, Erica Johns, Jeff Jones, Tom Jones, Jennifer Jurling, Lesley Kash, Elisabeth Kevorkian, Amina Khalifa, Sue Krofchik, Michael Kusie, Sandra Lange, Amanda Larsen, Marcie Lissauer, Linda Lucas, Marc Manheimer, Charlene MacAdams, Cathie Meetre, Rahul Mehta, Mary Moien, Elaine Nakash, Diane Oberg, Julie Rapp, Peter Reppert, Joe Robbins, Sandy Rodgers, Lois Rosado, Ian Blackwell Rogers, Richard Roth, Bonnie Schrack, Pat Scully, Bonnie Seaton, René Sewell-Rayson, David Shapiro, Melissa Sites, Lola Skolnik, Susan Taylor, Nancy Tolzman, Jeff Travis, Mary Lou Williamson, Jan Wolf, Renauta York, Ray Zammuto and Michael Zelfiff.

CIRCULATION Circulation Coordinator: circ@greenbeltnewsreview.com  
HOA information at: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/contact-us/distribution

Published weekly since 1937 by the Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association, Inc.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cathie Meetre, president; Diane Oberg, vice president; Deanna Dawson, secretary; Tom Jones, treasurer; Pat Scully, Carol Griffith and Sandy Rodgers

### PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.  
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.  
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.





# This Week at the New Deal Café

*SUPPORT Greenbelt's only venue with BOTH dinner AND a show!*

RESERVATIONS: 301-474-5642



**NEW DEAL**  
**CAFÉ**  
Greenbelt, MD

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK.

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD

**WINTER HOURS:** Mon/Wed/Th 8am-9pm; Tues 8am-9:30pm; Friday/Saturday 8am – 10pm; Sunday 9am – 9pm, **UNLESS NOTED.**

TH 2/22	FRI 2/23	SAT 2/24	SUN 2/25
<p>FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm</p> <p><b>Cadillac Jump Blues Band</b> 7-9pm</p> <p>It's the jumpin' blues baby!</p>	<p><b>Fast Eddie &amp; The Slowpokes</b> 7-10pm</p> <p>An NDC fav swing and jump blues band</p>	<p>MARTI GRAS PARTY! <b>Greenbelt HONK!</b> Situation, 5 - 6:30pm</p> <p><b>Sac Au Lait, 7:30 - 10p</b> Baltimore's Finest in Dixieland</p>	<p>DEAF BRUNCH, 10:30 - 12NOON</p> <p><b>Kim's Grand Rounds</b> 6-8pm</p> <p>An evening with area performers</p>

MON 2/26	TUES 2/27	WED 2/28	TH 2/29	SPECIALS!
<p><b>NEW DEAL CAFE OPEN BOARD MEETING</b> In the Cafe 6:30 - 8:30pm</p>	<p><b>NDC Early Bird Tunes Open Mic</b> W/Michael McTrouserspants <b>6:30-9:30pm</b> Sign-up begin at 6:15pm</p>	<p><b>Murray &amp; Stone</b> 7-9pm Playing a mix of Americana, Bluegrass and Swing</p>	<p>FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm</p> <p><b>Drag Bingo with D'Manda Martini</b> 7-9pm Unlimited bingo!</p>	<p><b>HAPPY HOUR</b> 4-7pm \$1 OFF BEER AND WINE <b>WINE</b> <b>WEDNESDAY</b> \$1 OFF PER GLASS <b>\$5 OFF A BOTTLE</b></p>

Join NDC! Go to [www.newdealcafe.com](http://www.newdealcafe.com), click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."

**FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.**

**THE NDC NEEDS YOUR VOLUNTEER TIME ON COMMITTEES. Contact:**  
**[jbelltower@yahoo.com](mailto:jbelltower@yahoo.com). We promise: It won't hurt!**



In Memoriam

## Lee Shields



Lee shows off his new stuffed animal, a favorite Christmas gift, when his family lived at 43-C Ridge Road.

I was both saddened and shocked about the news of the passing of Lee Shields as reported in the February 8 News Review. I had seen him recently with his wife, Bonnie, in the Greenbelt Co-op grocery store. Lee and I were of nearly the same age and both of us grew up in Greenbelt. Lee had a great sense of humor. We were both active in the Boy Scouts where his father, William, was an assistant Scout Master. I enjoyed seeing the give and take between father and son. Lee would tease his father in his efforts to maintain decorum among a group of hyperactive boy scouts. We would hike to Camp Mulligan, located somewhere in Greenbelt Park, north and east of the intersection of Good Luck Road and Kenilworth Avenue (which did not exist at that time), and stay for a night or two. Lee and I both went to Northwestern High School. We sometimes enjoyed hearing impromptu music and singing, prior to our classes.

I had little contact with him in our later years, but I do miss seeing him at the Co-op and sharing tales from our Boy Scout adventures.

Shalom Fisher

**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT MASS**

Sunday 10:00 a.m.  
City Council Room  
25 Crescent Rd

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

OR - Join us on ZOOM!  
For ZOOM link:  
CCG1985+owner@groups.io

**Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH**

Christ-centered  
Biblical  
& Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am

Sunday School 9:15am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD  
www.greenbeltbaptist.org

## Fat Tuesday Experiences Revival At St. Hugh’s Catholic Church

by Christopher Irwin



Dozens of participants enjoy the revived celebration at St Hugh’s.

Deputy Grand Knight David Pitts was surprised at the number of parishioners coming out last Tuesday evening to celebrate Fat (Shrove) Tuesday, which might be called the unofficial start before the official start of Lent. A parishioner since the late ’90s, Pitts observed, “Covid quarantine shut it down completely and this was the first year back on the parish calendar. It is obvious that interest in this event has not waned since.” According to Pitts, “The Knights cooked up the same amount of pancakes and sausage as if it were a pancake breakfast for three Sunday masses.”

Like the church’s Oktoberfest and Thanksgiving events in 2023,

this event drew people from far and wide. Thelma Martinez and her sons were among the estimated 75 to 80 persons on hand to enjoy the food and fellowship of the evening. “We were invited by St. Hugh,” Martinez says. “My sons are of the many enrolled in catechism classes at what was formerly the school of St. Hugh. The event was nice to have been part of. It allowed us to take part of a community event as we always like to support and take part of local activities.”

Originally from Atlanta, Ga., Deputy Grand Knight David Pitts recalls that his first Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner was

See ST. HUGH’s, page 6

**St. John's Episcopal Church**

11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704  
301-937-4292 [www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org](http://www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org)

Welcomes you each Sunday for  
Worship & Sunday School  
at 10:00 AM

The Bible Says...

**Lent-Week #2**

For all have sinned and  
fall short of the glory of God  
Romans 3:23

**Sunday Worship Services**  
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School  
(66 Ridge Rd.)  
**MCFcc.org**

**ST. HUGH OF GRENABLE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am\*, Sat 9am\*
- Sunday Mass:
  - Sat vigil 5pm\*
  - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

**CELEBRATE WITH US**  
135 Crescent Rd.  
[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)

**Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church**

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi  
Phone: 301-937-3666 [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

February 25 3:00 p.m.

**Pluralism**

**Everything You Need**

Rev. Ann Kadlecik Liturgist Elizabeth Porter

On this journey of our lives, what do we really need? In this service of story, movement and reflection, let’s explore together, as we kick off the annual stewardship campaign.

Streaming to our Facebook page, on Zoom and in person at 3:00 at:  
University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

CONGRATULATIONS to Eleanor Roosevelt High School junior **Fin Davis**, who won first place in Mosaic Theater Company’s High School Playwriting Contest for the play, *You’re Still My Sister*. The contest was open to highschoolers in grades 9 through 12 in a public, private or charter school, in the Washington, D.C., metro area. The first, second and third place winners each receive a cash prize and will have their plays read and directed by professional theater artists at the High School Playwriting Contest Play Reading on Saturday, February 24 at 2 p.m. at the Petworth Branch of the D.C. Public Library.

Send details of your news to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

PHOTO COURTESY MOSAIC THEATER COMPANY

**LISTEN to the NEWS REVIEW**

Visually impaired may listen for free  
Call Metropolitan Washington Ear  
301-681-6636

No special equipment needed

“Act in such a way that your heart may be free from hatred.”  
– ‘Abdu’l-Bahá

**Greenbelt Bahá’í Community**  
[www.greenbeltbahais.org](http://www.greenbeltbahais.org)

**Greenbelt Community Church**  
One Hillside Road

We are an  
Open and Affirming  
Church

**Join Us Sunday 10:15 AM for Worship and Church School**

[www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD](http://www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD)  
[www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org](http://www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org)

**Mishkan Torah Congregation**

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm  
Saturday morning services at 10:00am  
Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities  
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 [www.mishkantorah.org](http://www.mishkantorah.org)  
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

**College Park United Methodist Church Mowatt Memorial UMC**

**LENT SEASON**

It is a time of self-examination and reflection on God's infinite love.

**Lenten Bible study**  
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Wednesdays thru March 20th

Prior to our bible study at 6 pm, we will host a light communal meal that consist of soup, bread, and a drink prepared by our Community Meals Chef, Chris Hough.

This six-week bible touches on the experiences of several individuals around Jesus in his final days, focusing on a new life and redemption rather than loss.

9601 Rhode Island Av, College Park MD

**Saturday Egg-stravaganza**  
1 p.m. - 2:30 pm  
Kids pre-K through 5th grade are invited for a fun-filled Easter egg hunt on Saturday, March 30th.  
Mowatt Memorial UMC, 40 Ridge Rd, Greenbelt MD

**Maundy Thursday, Mar 28th**  
7 p.m.

We will worship the Lord through reflection, song, and communion.

Mowatt Memorial UMC, 40 Ridge Rd, Greenbelt MD

**Good Friday, Mar 29th**  
7 p.m.

During this service, we will remember the passion and death of Jesus. The gradual extinguishing of the candles is accompanied by prayer, hymns, and reading from Scripture.

Mowatt Memorial UMC, 40 Ridge Rd, Greenbelt MD

**Easter Sunday**  
10 a.m.

Invite a friend to join us on Easter Sunday service as we celebrate God's gift of new life!

Mowatt Memorial UMC, 40 Ridge Rd, Greenbelt MD





# City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

## GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING

Monday, February 26, 2024 at 7:30 pm

### ORGANIZATION

Call to Order  
Roll Call  
Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag  
Petitions and Requests  
Consent Agenda - Approval of Staff Recommendations (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by \*] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)  
Approval of Agenda and Additions

### COMMUNICATIONS

**Presentations**  
\* **Minutes of Council Meetings**  
- **Administrative Reports**  
\* **Committee Reports**

### LEGISLATION

### OTHER BUSINESS

- Metro's FY2025 Proposed Service Changes
- Ball Field Maintenance Equipment
- Engineering Proposal - Prepare Pre-Construction Documents for Interior Deck Remediation
- Bridge Remediation Repairs - Contractor Recommendation
- Legislative Bill Review
- Council Activities
- Council Reports
- \* Meetings
- \* Stakeholders
- \* Letter - Request to County Historic Preservation Commission to Designate Dora Kennedy French Immersion School Building a County Historic Site
- \* Re/Appointment to Advisory Board

*In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email [banderson@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltmd.gov).*

## MEETINGS FOR FEBRUARY 26 - MARCH 1

Monday, February 26, **CLOSED SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Tuesday, February 27 at 3:30 pm, **SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**, *On the Agenda: Approval of January 2024 Minutes, Discussion on Not for Seniors Only Event*

Tuesday, February 27 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**, *On the Agenda: Minutes of January Meeting, Review of Educator Even at Cinema, Educator Awards Preparations, Referral Report - PGCMLS, AOB*

Tuesday, February 27 at 7:30 pm, **GREEN ACES / GREEN TEAM**, *On the Agenda: Special Guest Von (Army Research Center), Biodiesel Updates, Bottle Bill Update, Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance Update, Curbside Compost Pickup Grant*

Wednesday, February 28 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - RELIGIOUS / SPIRITUAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Thursday, February 29 at 5:30 pm, **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

*In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email [banderson@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltmd.gov). This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar).*

## CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS

CARES is happy to provide the following programs FREE of charge:

- March Emergency Diaper Program
- Produce Distribution at the Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East, 15 Crescent Road  
*Upcoming Dates: March 21, April 18, May 16, from 1 - 3 pm*
- Produce Distribution at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Ln (*Greenbelt West Residents Only*)  
*Upcoming Dates: March 21, April 18, May 16, from 3 - 4:15 pm*
- Senior Driver Safety & Mobility Seminar  
*March 7, from 7 - 8 pm, Virtual*

For descriptions and information, visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/CARESPROGRAMS](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/CARESPROGRAMS).

## HELP CREATE PUBLIC ART!

### HELP CREATE PUBLIC ART! - MARCH 2

Free workshop on 3/2. Ages 14 to adult. Details and registration (required) at <https://bit.ly/3TSNycR>.

## CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation).



**Greenbelt Black History & Culture Committee**  
[blackhistoryandculturegb@gmail.com](mailto:blackhistoryandculturegb@gmail.com)



## OFFICIAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a closed session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Monday, February 26, 2024, immediately following the Regular Council Meeting, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building: 1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

The purpose of this meeting is 1) to address personnel matters over which this public body has jurisdiction.

2) to consult with legal counsel regarding outstanding legal matters.

**\* The public may attend the Regular Council Meeting prior to the closed session and observe the vote of the Council to move into the closed session on Monday, February 26, 2024.**

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

## GREENBELT YOUTH MUSICAL BURIED TREASURE

3/2 at 7 pm, 3/3 at 3 pm, 3/9 at 2 pm & 7 pm

Be transported on a magical adventure by Buried Treasure, written and directed by Christopher Cherry.

Saturday, March 2, 7 pm, Sunday, March 3, 3 pm, Saturday March 9, 2 pm & 7 pm.

Greenbelt Community Center Gymnasium. All ages. \$5.

Purchase tickets at the Community Center Business Office or by phone at (301)-397-2208.

Details: <https://bit.ly/3u0tFq>.

## GREENBELT WAYFINDING SURVEY

The Neighborhood Design Center (NDC) is preparing a Greenbelt Strategic Wayfinding Plan for the City of Greenbelt funded by the Prince George's County Planning Department's Planning Assistance to Municipalities and Communities (PAMC) Program, and we are looking for input from the community. Community members are encouraged to take this brief survey, and to identify wayfinding signage gaps or needs in the City of Greenbelt on this interactive map.

Wayfinding can encompass various elements, including signage, maps, landmarks, and other cues that help individuals understand their location, the direction they need to go, and how to reach their intended destination. The Greenbelt Strategic Wayfinding Plan will facilitate pedestrian, automobile, bicycle, or transit travel to key sites by providing clear directions along safe and convenient routes.

If you have any questions regarding the survey or interactive map, please email [Anusree.Nair@ppd.mnccpc.org](mailto:Anusree.Nair@ppd.mnccpc.org).

Thank you for your participation!



## FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

### UPCOMING PRODUCE DISTRIBUTIONS

MARCH 21, APRIL 18, & MAY 16  
TWO LOCATIONS

**Community Center Ground Floor East:** 1 pm, while supplies last. Open to all Greenbelt residents. **Must have a registration card** via Brendy Garcia at (240) 424-0302 or [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov).

**Springhill Lake Recreation Center:** 3 - 4:15 pm, registration required. For Greenbelt West residents only. Register via email [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov).

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

Volunteers are needed every third Thursday of the month at the Spring Hill Lake Recreation Center & the Greenbelt Community Center. Volunteers will assist with setting up tables, sorting and organizing fresh fruits and vegetables, and distributing them to families in need.

**Springhill Lake Recreation Center Volunteers** - For information, contact Katherine Farzin (240) 524-2019.

To register, please use the link: <https://forms.gle/AqNxCARjwioCnTWf9>.

**Greenbelt Community Center Volunteers** - For more information, contact Flora Li (301) 412-2480.

## FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS

at Doctors Community Medical Center, 8100 Good Luck Road

Luminis Health will be providing free blood pressure, diabetes, and cholesterol screenings on select Wednesdays in February and March. Screenings will take place on the 1st floor of the North Building at Doctors Community Medical Center.

Dates:

Wednesday, March 6, 10 am - 2 pm

Wednesday, March 20, 10 am - 2 pm



Luminis Health

## GREENBELT ARPA GRANT PROGRAMS

### Applications Deadlines Extended Through August 30, 2024

To better assist Greenbelt individuals, families, and businesses affected by COVID-19, Greenbelt's ARPA programs have extended deadlines through the end of the year for grants and other assistance.

Grants include:

**Childcare Vouchers, Healthcare Vouchers, Higher Education Scholarships**  
**First-Time Homebuyer Downpayment Assistance, Workforce Development**  
**Micro Grants, Tree Canopy Grants**

To view grant programs, or to see how other ARPA programs are helping your community recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, visit [www.engagegreenbelt.org](http://www.engagegreenbelt.org).

## GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at [greenbeltmd.gov/calendar](http://greenbeltmd.gov/calendar).



## COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the **Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, the Youth Advisory Committee, or the Advisory Committee on Education, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Community Relations Advisory Board, Employee Relations Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, or the Park and Recreation Advisory Board** and make a difference in Greenbelt!

By dedicating your time and expertise, you will help shape the future of Greenbelt and create a community that values the voices of all its residents. Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

## GREENBELT SAVE OUR SENIORS GRANT PROGRAM

Are you homebound and need help with personal care?

The Greenbelt Assistance in Living Program, in partnership with Pickett Fences Senior Services, has been awarded a grant to provide temporary home health support, bathroom safety assessment, and equipment to residents 60+ or 50+ with a disability, who reside within incorporated Greenbelt. During this time staff will work to identify and link residents with long-term support programs.

Benefits:

- RN Assessment
- Bathroom Safety Assessment and Equipment
- Home Health Visits

**Limited spots are available!**

Please email Trinity Cephas, GAIL Student Intern, for more information at [tcephas@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:tcephas@greenbeltmd.gov) or call the Bilingual Health Caseworker, Brendy Garcia, at (240) 424-0302 or [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov).

## BRING YOUR OWN BAG ORDINANCE

Effective January 1, 2024, the City of Greenbelt's Bring Your Own Bag bill aims to reduce single-use plastic bag waste and litter in our local waterways and tributary system.

The Bring Your Own Bag bill will prohibit a retail establishment from providing a plastic carryout bag to shoppers and can charge at least 10 cents for each paper bag provided to a customer at the point of sale.

Visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/BYOBag](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/BYOBag).





## Shrove Tuesday Pancakes at Community Church



Sandy Hamlin and the Voigt family eat a sweet meal at Greenbelt Community Church’s Shrove Tuesday celebration on Feb. 13. The pancake supper attracted 50 people and raised \$600 to support Help By Phone, a local food pantry.



Left, Ken Voigt serves pancakes and sausages during Greenbelt Community Church’s Shrove Tuesday celebration.



- Photos by Carol Bellamy

## Greenbelt Committee Supports Aid for Ukrainian Refugees

by Frank Gervasi

Greenbelt Refugee Aid Committee (GRACE) was formed in response to the horrific February 24, 2022, Russian invasion of Ukraine. Their goal was to bring three Ukrainian refugee families to safety and security in Greenbelt out of the over 10 million fleeing their homes as a result of the attack on many fronts.

GRACE has rented and furnished, almost entirely with community donations, two apartments here in historic Greenbelt. They are preparing to rent and furnish a third apartment in the near future. Greenbelt’s volunteers and refugees are all very grateful for the generosity and participation Greenbelt neighbors have shown to make this process succeed.

The community hosted its first refugee family: a single mother, Anna, with her two small children, beginning in May of 2023. The second family, Tetiana, a single mother of three grown children, arrived here in December. GRACE has applied to sponsor Tetiana’s youngest daughter, Kateryna, who is still in the family home in Mykolayiv and is a Ukrainian journalist. The third Ukrainian family, a single mother with one young son, is also being

sponsored by the committee. Currently they are back home in the northern Ukrainian city of Sumy, which is on the way to the capital Kiev, and was one of the first places attacked in February 2022.

Life is worsening for the population as more missiles land instead of being shot down. The longer some factions of Congress hold up the aid Ukraine desperately needs, the more precarious their situation becomes. A few days ago a strategic city, Avdiivka, fell to the Russian army because needed ammunition and supplies are running low. It was the first reversal since the Ukrainian army began recapturing territory lost two years ago.

This Saturday, February 24, a rally in support of Ukraine is scheduled for 2 p.m. at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Those interested may join in this effort to help these deserving people. The future of democracy is at stake.



## ST. HUGH’s continued from page 4

started by the St. Hugh Parish Youth Group. He says that it soon became too large for the youth group to sustain and then was taken over by the St. Hugh Council Knights of Columbus. “I felt blessed to be a part of this event and to see so many families becoming active in the parish again,” said Pitts.

Shrove Tuesday is also re-

ferred to as Pancake Tuesday because Catholics sought to consume their eggs, milk and butter before Lent began and they would be fasting. The word shrove comes from the word shrive, which refers to the confession of sins as a preparation for Lent, a usual practice in Europe in the Middle Ages.

www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

## COUNCIL continued from page 1

would grant the city only a small increase of authority over such proposals, council voted its support nonetheless, Roberts excepted, with other members judging that small progress is better than no progress at all.

### Youth Services Bureaus

Council then voiced its support for state legislation that restores funds for the nine Youth Services Bureaus in Maryland which include Greenbelt CARES, “a community based, family-oriented counseling program dedicated to promoting responsible behavior and appropriate family management skills” that offers “counseling services for families at our Wednesday Night Family Clinic” and other times when possible, according to its website.

### No Funds for Maglev

In the final Legislative topic of discussion, council supported a bill, introduced for a third time in Annapolis by District 22 State Senator Alonzo Washington and State Delegate Nicole Williams,

that would prevent state funds from being used to develop maglev, the high-speed train that, if built, will travel through parts of Greenbelt.

### Around Greenbelt

In addition, Salmerón and others walked through Springhill Lake Recreation Center with Kevin Lockhart, Franklin Park resident and recent applicant for the open council seat, to identify immediate needs and areas for long-term improvements, following discussion of needs in Greenbelt West, and the recreation department in particular, at the February 7 worksession (see article on p. 1). Jordan asked that volunteers be organized to remove trash from and around the pedestrian bridge that crosses over the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, and Weaver and Councilmember Silke Pope asked the city manager to act on requests by the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee that safety strips on the concrete steps outside the

the palace is who they seem to be, and the three chastened adventurers can set things aright only if they see beneath the surface.

Production director Chris Cherry, who also wrote the script and composed the songs, cites the show as a personal favorite. “The show is about the sometimes-painful process of self-discovery, about jettisoning surface notions in order to find what is deep down, what is true and what one’s treasure is,” said Cherry.

“I have a real soft spot for



Snowdenn Jackson, left, and Lirael McFarland rehearse a song in Buried Treasure.

PHOTO BY JUDY GOLDBERG-STRASSLER

the three protagonists,” he added, “as well as for the character of

Dunstan, who thinks he’s under a spell of ignorance, and even for the extremely snarky dragons, who tell some hard truths. I also love the score, which includes some of my best songs. I hope Greenbelt will turn out in force to enjoy these wonderful young actors performing them.”

Tickets are now on sale at the Community Center business office, where they can be purchased in person or by phone at 301-397-2208. Previous productions have sold out, so advance purchase is strongly recommended.



Hit the Road  
with a great rate auto loan  
at your community  
credit union

Rate as low as  
4.9% apr\*

Greenbelt Federal  
Credit Union

112 Centerway, Roosevelt Center  
301-474-5900 www.greenbeltfcu.com

\*apr=annual percentage rate. Rate subject to change without notice. Rate based on credit. Approval required.



ARPA continued from page 1

Youth Center gym and \$12,000 for pickleball lines at the Youth Center.

Ongoing projects include \$150,000 toward an outdoor pavilion; \$52,000 for “outdoor recreation amenities”; \$15,000 toward Greenbrook trails; \$855,000 for a Community Center upgrade, including chillers and boilers; \$850,000 for Youth Center HVAC and GAFC ductwork; \$1 million for ballfields; \$1 million for Schrom Hills Park soccer field improvements; \$350,000 for baseball field maintenance equipment; and \$100,000 for the dance studio floor. Staff recommendations for uncommitted funding at the meeting included \$40,000 for indoor pool deck engineering analysis and \$100,000 for Buddy Attick Park amenities (subject to the Master Plan).

Mayor Emmett Jordan asked if the city would have to shut down the Braden and McDonald baseball fields in order to redo them. George confirmed they would, stating there’ll be a season where they have to find somewhere else to play, “but when they come back they’ll have world-class facilities,” he said. He also noted that the need had become a safety issue, stressing the condition of Schrom Hills field in particular made it unsuitable for sports. There was also a value issue, he said, saying Greenbelt could have a “high-class world soccer facility.” The plans mean that in summer of 2025 one or both fields will not be available. The preference might be to wait for spring season to be over at Braden, said George. On the other hand, he thought the Youth Center may need to close for only a week, if at all, for its improvements.

**Greenbelt West?**

“I’m glad Braden Field in Old Greenbelt is going to have world-class playing fields and Schrom Hills, that’s needed to be fixed for a long time too, but the sad thing is that \$21 million later the kids in Greenbelt West have nothing still. Not one field. Not even one with bumps in it. They have nothing,” said Councilmember Rodney Roberts. “I don’t look at this as a great success because we aren’t spreading the wealth around. We’re not helping the kids in Greenbelt West,” he argued.

“We are investing \$500,000 to redo the Springhill Lake Rec Center playground, we’re giving them a basketball court,” responded George. “Giving them a pittance,” interrupted Roberts, who argued that a field in Greenbelt West would allow other fields to rest, too, and benefit everyone. Roberts argued the need for a park and playing field in Greenbelt West and said not doing it with ARPA money was a shame. Yet, he argued, it could still be done.

“We can cancel every project, buy a van and build a field and if it is council’s vision and dream to do that, we will follow through with it,” said City Manager Josué Salmerón.

“But we don’t own any land in Greenbelt West to improve,” said Councilmember Kristen Weaver. “We would have to buy

and find something available,” she noted.

Councilmember Danielle McKinney said, “A lot of us at this table were not part of the original process .... I would be interested in looking at what we do have remaining .... We do need to look at the distribution because at first blush looking at this is very concentrated on certain areas of the city that don’t always get a lot of usage.”

Weaver noted that there are existing ballfields at Greenbelt Middle School, if the city could get the ability to use them,



The upgraded tennis courts at Braden Field reopened in September 2023.

though they may need work.

“The school’s never going to let you play there and the field is horrible anyway. The people in Greenbelt West need their own park, their own playing fields, not getting shammed into a school board field they get to play once a year,” argued Roberts.

Kevin Lockhart, who was recently an applicant for a council seat, seeking to represent Greenbelt West, spoke as a resident. As someone who works with the Springhill Lake Boys and Girls Club, he noted that last year they went through a season without a field. During that time, he said he hadn’t noticed anything being done. He expressed concern about the emphasis on baseball in the ARPA and facility discussions.

He also noted that Franklin Park’s pool has not been in use

for two or three years, suggesting the city and the apartment complex might partner to better use that space for recreation. “I hear the playground was coming last year, now it’s coming this year in March, and that’s fine but have y’all gone to the Rec Center and actually walked through the front doors?” Lockhart asked council. “We got a broken door that’s been broke for over a year. We got a sign on it ‘Use Other Door,’ it’s been there forever. The front desk is terrible .... We don’t have a buzzer, we don’t have nothing, anybody can come through that door, anybody, ’cause it doesn’t lock, ’cause it’s broke. Yes, they put in an order for it. They come, they do whatever and it breaks again. It needs to be taken down, completely redone, the whole front. The carpet on the floor? Been there since 1996. Ain’t been cleaned. Should be taken up. I mean the place is a dump. Take a tour over there! I mean it’s not right that this part gets everything, point blank. I’m speaking the truth. We get nothing .... I’m getting aggravated sitting there listening to all this money going here, there, everywhere and peanuts coming over [this] way. And when is it coming? Oh next year, oh in March. We still waitin’.

That front entrance should be fixed immediately. Get it fixed; it’s part of Greenbelt!” Lockhart said the gym at Springhill Lake was freezing cold because heat couldn’t get regulated and warned children were going to get hurt waiting for things to be fixed there.

Salmerón said he recognized Braden Field was also used for football and that will be part of the project. He also said the city is working toward an enhanced

See ARPA, page 11

Chromatics Draw Large Crowd To Café on Superbowl Sunday

by Michael Hartman



The Chromatics perform at the New Deal Café on Sunday, February 11.

Despite the lure of Taylor Swift at the Super Bowl – oh, and the football game too – the New Deal Café offered Greenbelters counter-programming to a full house on Sunday, February 11. The Chromatics were fantastic and just as exciting to music lovers (especially the sci-

ence and technology nerdy-type folks) as the Super Bowl was to football lovers. Plus, the audience learned all sorts of astronomical facts in the offering. Who knew there existed in the vast universe a spectacular phenomenon called AstroCapella?



**Greenbelt American Legion Post 136**  
6900 Greenbelt Rd. 301-345-0136

**RESTAURANT HOURS FOR MEMBERS' LOUNGE LUNCHESES**

For those of you who have requested that we open for lunch at Noon in the Members' Lounge, we are going to give it a try. Thank you for your patronage and suggestions, keep them coming!

**NEW LUNCH HOURS:**  
Friday and Saturday 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM



We are offering a 10% discount on food and non-alcoholic beverages to our First Responders, in both the restaurant and Members' Lounge.

**Open to the public!**



I believe strongly in Prince George's as the smartest buy in the DC metro area. Be in touch if I can help with real estate anywhere in the DMV--and especially in Prince George's County!

**Kim Kash of Compass**  
Washingtonian's Face of Prince George's County Real Estate

**Kim Kash**  
Realtor®  
m 301.789.6294  
kim.kash@compass.com



**COMPASS**

**PLAY BALL!**

Registration is open for the 2024 Spring Season for Greenbelt Youth Baseball Little League  
<http://www.gyblittleleague.org>



Divisions available for players ages 4-14  
Evaluations and team selections start in March  
Season runs from April to June  
Coaches and volunteers welcome!

Questions? E-mail us at [greenbeltyouthbaseball@gmail.com](mailto:greenbeltyouthbaseball@gmail.com)



**McCARL DENTAL GROUP**  
WWW.MCCARLDENTAL.COM

**Computer Guided Dental Implants**  
EASIER, SAFER AND MORE ACCURATE IMPLANT PLACEMENT FOR OUR DENTAL PATIENTS.

OVER 500 5-STAR REVIEWS!  
COVID INFECTION CONTROL CERTIFIED

**Greenbelt 301.474.4144 | Shipley's Choice Medical Park 410.987.8800**



Dr. Jay McCarl, Dr. Dianna Lee, Dr. Clayton McCarl, and Dr. Richard Duarte are licensed general dentists.



# Letters, from p.2

home, we would have liked to have known. We may have made different choices. It also calls into question what other critical information was not, and is not, being shared. I encourage the city to consider factors such as these – that directly affect the desirability and marketability of our community – as they work with the county.

Jamie Krauk

## Reutilization Is Least Harmful

Although the current Municipal Building was designed and under contract when I first came to Greenbelt 61 years ago, I did get to do some minor interior adjustments to better accommodate employee needs. And, of course, I was very much involved with planning the subsequent addition.

So, I have been following with great interest the current articles on building a new building and its site location. I will not get involved in the issues of the need for a new building and costs, leaving those considerations to current city leaders and residents. I do agree, however, that the building construction technology that is least harmful to the environment is the reutilization of an existing structure.

Should it be decided that a new building is needed, there is one site not mentioned for consideration that I feel should be and that is between the existing city building and the Community Center. It would be a building sited to face the library, creating a three-building governmental complex facing a common green.

While not the original plan, I think it would be a planning idea original planners would approve. Like many other city public buildings, the back entrance, facing the parking lots, would be more used than the front, but that's OK.

Obviously, there would need to be some modifications to parking and pedestrian access to the new and existing buildings, but the existing parking areas are more than ample to serve the everyday needs of the new building. The old city building could be retained or removed, as best determined.

James Giese  
A Former City Manager

## Consider Renting

I was dismayed to learn, in the February 15 edition of the News Review, of the plans to build an expensive new city government office building in central Greenbelt despite the massive amount of vacant commercial office space available for rent in the city. The plans, I believe, send the wrong message to the taxpayers, to the city's business owners, and to the many citizens who could benefit from services offered outside city center, e.g., at one of the office buildings in the vicinity of the courthouse. It may be a little late in the game, but I urge council to reconsider the current direction.

Ronald Benjamin

# FREED continued from page 1

was the property of the brother of her enslaver. She was fortunate because her enslaver denounced the system of slavery, joined the Union Army and moved his family from Virginia to the free state of Ohio. Charlotte was emancipated in 1863 by the Emancipation Proclamation signed by President Abraham Lincoln at the urging of Frederick Douglass.

Charlotte remained with the family and adopted the name Scott for her own last name. She was paid as a servant and began to save her earnings. Upon hearing of Lincoln's assassination, she conceived the idea of getting a statue erected in his honor and asked her employer for assistance. Charlotte's donation was the first of her wages, \$5.00. The entire process was spearheaded by freed African Americans who massively contributed to this effort. As a result, the Emancipation Statue was erected in Lincoln Park in Washington, D.C., in 1876. Charlotte Scott was present for the dedication of the statue by President Ulysses Grant and her name is prominently displayed on

the dedication placard.

Unfortunately, during the Black Lives Matter demonstrations, there was a lot of controversy about the way the statue was designed. Even Frederick Douglass questioned the notion of the Black man rising, but still on one knee and not fully clothed. He wanted to see monuments that showed the improved conditions of freed people. The statue was moved in 2020 and is currently in storage in Boston.

## Origins of FREED

The story was riveting and after it the chair of the group, Patricia Tyson, responded to questions. FREED, she explained, is an auxiliary to the African American Civil War Museum, located in Washington, D.C. On the occasion of the museum's



Thomas Ball's sculpture depicts Lincoln freeing an enslaved man.

PHOTO BY CLAIRE HASSLER, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

minate stories of African American women who greatly contributed during the Civil War era to the African American struggle for equality. Thus, FREED was born.

Tyson explained that FREED is a multiracial group because there were many women from various backgrounds who contributed during that era. Their members research women, including suffragettes, who were actively engaged in various movements at that time.

The audience enjoyed the educational experience and gave FREED a standing ovation. The event was part of Greenbelt's Black History Month programming and sponsored by the Golden Age Club.





greenbelt  
**CINEMA**



## Just Announced!

A Special Screening of the  
2021 Award-Winning Documentary Film

# THE TOWER ROAD BUS

Directed by Michael Streissguth

With Q & A discussion with panelists including  
local historians and residents, several of whom  
are featured in the film!

Visit: [www.towerroadbus.com](http://www.towerroadbus.com)

Sponsored by:  
**Melanie Cantwell of Long and Foster Real Estate**  
and contribution from the  
**Greenbelt Elementary School PTA**



MELANIE CANTWELL  
Long and Foster Real Estate

9094 Baltimore Avenue  
College Park, MD 20740  
O: 301-441-9511  
C: 240-470-5911  
[Melanie.Cantwell@LNF.com](mailto:Melanie.Cantwell@LNF.com)  
[melaniecantwell.com](http://melaniecantwell.com)

LONG & FOSTER  
REAL ESTATE

Forbes  
GLOBAL PROPERTIES





greenbelt  
**CINEMA**

129 Centerway  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

## THURSDAY 2/29 @ 7PM

tickets available at  
[greenbeltcinema.org](http://greenbeltcinema.org)



# Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred February 12-18, 2024. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an enquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email [pd@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:pd@greenbeltmd.gov). Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Greenbelt Police Department had two death reports, six domestics including three arrests, one arrest for child abuse and one mental health diversion. A missing girl was safely found. A woman under the influence of drugs who was sexually assaulted was taken to a medical center for treatment. An anonymous tip regarding pornographic photographs and solicitation of a minor was referred to an outside agency.

### Assault

On February 14 at 8:46 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man struck someone in the face with his fist and was arrested for second degree assault.

On February 14 at 7:47 p.m. near 7405 Greenbelt Road, a group of girls fighting were dispersed by police.

### Burglary

On February 18 at 3:06 a.m. near 5510 Cherrywood Lane, surveillance footage showed a suspect forcing entry. Merchandise was taken.

### Break-ins

On February 16 at 2:51 p.m. near 5909 Cherrywood Terrace, a glass balcony door was broken but nothing was reported stolen.

On February 13 at 11:02 a.m. near 6040 Greenbelt Road, a computer system, and possibly money from the safe, was stolen.

On February 14 at 8:53 a.m. near 5903 Cherrywood Lane, a home was broken into with no signs of forced entry. Items were taken.

### Disorderly

On February 16 at 5:50 p.m. near 5717 Greenbelt Metro Drive, a man who appeared intoxicated urinated on the tire of an SUV and was arrested.

### DUI Arrests

On February 12 at 4:39 a.m. near 5807 Cherrywood Lane, a man who was asleep at the wheel, whose vehicle crashed into the rear of another vehicle, was arrested on suspected DUI.

On February 14 at 1:42 a.m. near 7480 Greenway Center Drive, a disorderly man in a fast-food restaurant was determined to be under the influence of alcohol, and officers told him not to drive. The same officers later witnessed the man driving and arrested him for DUI.

On February 18 at 3:01 a.m. near Greenbelt Road and Lakecrest Drive, a vehicle was driving on the wrong side of the road, and the driver was arrested on suspicion of DUI.

### Fraud

On February 13 near 149 Westway, someone discovered that their Social Security number had already been used to file taxes.

### Robberies

On February 12 at 7:54 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, suspects entered a store, implied they had a weapon and stole thousands of dollars worth of merchandise.

On February 12 at 10:08 p.m. near 9169 Springhill Lane, someone displayed a handgun and stole a man's shoes.

On February 16 at 6:50 p.m. near 6100 Springhill Terrace, an unknown man with a black handgun in his waistband robbed a boy, telling him to empty his pockets and give him his book-bag.

### Theft

On February 13 at 4:22 p.m. near 7583 Greenbelt Road, two women placed items in their bags and left the store. On February 15 at 1:16 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, someone stole merchandise on two separate occasions by leaving through the fire exit.

On February 15 near 7480 Greenway Center Drive, items were missing from a hotel room.

On February 16 near 6600 Lake Park Drive, house keys were stolen from a home mailbox. On February 16 at 9:31 p.m. near 7900 Mandan Road, a woman left her phone on a bench near her house, and Ring video footage showed a man taking it.

### Trespassing

On February 18 at 7:05 p.m. near 22 Ridge Road, a disorderly man entered a secured facility and was arrested.

### Vandalism

On February 17 at 8:36 p.m. near 6100 Breezewood Drive, a bedroom window was broken.

### Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

Six vehicles were stolen: on February 13 near 6116 Breezewood Drive, a black 2018 Infiniti Q50 (Md. 4FA2124); February 14 near 9162 Edmonston Road, a silver-colored 2022 Toyota Highlander (Md. 4FR5898), and near 6982 Hanover Parkway, a 2013 Hyundai Elantra (Md. 5BY7790); on February 16 near Greenbrook Drive and Hanover Parkway, a 2014 Audi Q7 (Fla. 37AGUX); February 17 near 6001 Cherrywood Court, a blue 2019 Toyota Camry (Va. TRF9476); and near 6200 Springhill Court, a silver-colored 2014 Ford Focus (Md. 6FJ8625).

### Stolen Vehicles Recovered

On February 12 near 7800 Good Luck Road, a work vehicle, stolen from a parking lot in Greenbelt, was found by GPS tracker at an address in Laurel, where it was recovered with the aid of the Laurel Police Department.

On February 16 near 8258 Miner Street, a vehicle reported stolen had actually been towed.

**Attempted Theft of Auto**  
On February 18 near 22 Ridge Road, a 2014 Kia Sportage had window and ignition damage.

### Recovered Tags

On February 16 near 6912 Hanover Parkway, two different sets of stolen license plates were found.

### Theft from Auto

On February 12 near 5915 Cherrywood Terrace, a 2013 Honda Civic had a window broken and money stolen. On February 13 near 7511 Mandan Road, custom trim parts installed along the center console were stolen. On February 16 near 7833 Vanity Fair Drive, a 2014 Dodge Charger was broken into and items were stolen including a credit card that was later used; near 5903 Cherrywood Lane, tags were stolen (Va. TPD3876); near 6002 Springhill Drive, a man was seen stealing change from a 2003 Ford Explorer; near 7282 Mandan Road, a 2010 Lexus RX was rummaged through; near 7329 Morrison Drive, a Subaru Ascent was rummaged through, and near 7802 Vanity Fair Drive, a 2005

Lexus was ransacked.


### Vandalism to Auto

On February 12 near 9166 Edmonston Road, a car window was broken. On February 14 near 6122 Breezewood Drive, a car had windows and sunroof damage.

## Anonymous Tips To Greenbelt Police

Greenbelt Police Department is offering a new way to provide anonymous tips – email. This month the department created an email address to receive tips from the public with no questions asked and the promise of no callbacks or requests for a name or phone number. It comes as juvenile crime has continued to rise and acknowledges fear of reprisal may prevent community members from coming forward with information.

The email address to send anonymous tips to is [CRIMETIPS@Greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:CRIMETIPS@Greenbeltmd.gov).



**Ms. STORY'S LIVING HISTORY**


**Starring: SHEMAKA RENÉE**  
**Directed by: RIKKI HOWIE LACEWELL**

**GAC**  
GREENBELT ARTS CENTER  
123 CENTERWAY | GREENBELT, MD

**Bringing History to Life**  
A NEW CHAPTER EACH WEEKEND  
FRIDAYS - SATURDAYS at 8pm  
SUNDAYS at 2pm

**Two Weekends Left**  
February 23-25  
(Masks Required Sunday, February 25)  
March 1-3

**TICKETS \$14 - \$27:**  
[greenbeltartscenter.org](http://greenbeltartscenter.org)  
301-441-8770





**ANACOSTIA TRAILS  
HERITAGE AREA, INC.**

Explore the History, Culture, Arts and  
Nature of Prince George's County!

Curated routes and trail maps:  
[anacostiatrails.org](http://anacostiatrails.org)



**FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY  
MONTH!**

*Something for Everyone!*

121 Centerway, Greenbelt • [www.greenbelt.coop](http://www.greenbelt.coop)

Co-op Is Proud to Support  
These Great Black-Owned Businesses



Local

**Dodah's Kitchen  
Cakes**



Local

**Simple Pleasures  
Ice Cream**



Local

**Sweet Almond  
Macarons**



Local

**Maison Noir Wine &  
Local  
Black Viking Brew**



# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

## AUTOMOTIVE

2010 ROADTREK RV on Mercedes Short Sprinter diesel van. Fits in regular parking space. Seats 5. Sleeps 2. Mileage 88.6K. Range, fridge, microwave, tv, toilet, outside shower. Asking \$40,000. Call 301-345-5384. Leave a message, please.

## SERVICES

**YARDWORK**—spring cleanup, leaves, weeding, mowing, weed-wacking, trim bushes, etc. call 410-940-9945.

**CUSTOM FLOORING, LLC** Installing all flooring products. Specializing in refinishing hardwood. Starting \$3.50 per Sq. Ft. Call Now 301-844-8897, [www.customflooringllc.net](http://www.customflooringllc.net).

**GREENBELT AMERICAN LEGION** lunch hours in the members’ lounge are now 12 noon to 4 pm on Friday and Saturday. The Post is giving a 10 percent discount on food and non-alcoholic beverages to First Responders. Call Post 136 at 301-345-0136 for more details.

**CARING KIM’S PET Care** – Drop-in visits, walks and boarding by a lifetime animal lover and caregiver. Offered for dogs, cats and other small animals. Call Kim at 301-520-6708 for appointments or with questions.

**HOUSECLEANING** – OVER 20 years in Greenbelt area. Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or one-time cleaning offered. Local references and free estimates available. Debbie, 301-523-9884.

**COMPUTERS, WIFI and PRINTERS** – Training, Installing, Repairing, Troubleshooting. JBS, 240-601-4163.

**MISSY’S DECORATING** – Serving Greenbelt for over 30 years. Interior painting. Free estimates. MHIC #26409. Insured. Call Missy, 301-345-7273.

**FRANK’S VIDEO CONVERSION** – Convert VHS tapes/8mm movies, slides to DVD. LP records to CD. DAT tapes to CD. H 240-295-3994, C 703-216-7293.

**HEATING AND COOLING** – We specialize in installing Mitsubishi duct-less heat pump systems in Greenbelt Homes. Call Mike at H & C Heating & Cooling, 301-953-2113. Licensed and insured since 1969.

**DO YOU NEED A TUTOR** in Math, Chemistry or AP Chemistry with an Experienced Teacher? Email: [Janehemeltmennella@gmail.com](mailto:Janehemeltmennella@gmail.com). Text: 240-475-2802.

**ANGELA’S HOUSE CLEANING AND PAINTING** – Cleaning your home like my own, at reasonable prices. Painting inside and out. References available in Greenbelt. Ten years’ professional experience. AngelaLazol@hotmail.com; 240-645-5140.

**KELLAHER MAINTENANCE ENGINEERING, LLC** – Junk removal, plumbing, electrical, painting, drywall, leaf removal, landscape design, mulching flower beds, bucket truck services, stump grinding, pruning trees & removal, pole lighting, power washing siding & decks. Mulch & top soil delivery. Dkellaher@hotmail.com, 301-318-5472. Insured. Visa, MasterCard, Discover. [www.Kellahermaintenance.com](http://www.Kellahermaintenance.com).

**LICENSED MASTER ELECTRICIAN** – Will do all repairs and new installations. 20+ years’ experience. Call Desmond 301-346-5335.

**HAULING AND JUNK REMOVAL** – Complete clean out: garages, houses, construction debris, etc. Licensed & insured. Free estimates. Accept credit cards. Mike Smith, 301-346-0840.

**COLLECTIBLES** – Small collector pays cash for coins/collections. Call Gary, 301-809-0291. Will come to you.

**LEW’S CUSTOM UPHOLSTERY** – Free estimates, fabric samples, local business for over 30 years. Call Missy, 301-345-7273.



**Continental Movers**  
Free boxes  
Local – Long Distance  
\$80 x two men  
\$100 x three men  
301-340-0602  
202-438-1489  
[www.continentalmovers.net](http://www.continentalmovers.net)



GREENBELT SERVICE CENTER

**Auto Repairs & Road Service**  
A.S.E. Certified Technicians  
Maryland State Inspections  
**161 CENTERWAY  
GREENBELT, MD  
301-474-8348**

## RATES

**CLASSIFIED:** \$3.00 minimum for ten words. 15¢ for each additional word. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 6 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 5 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

**BOXED:** \$10.60/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15.90). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads. Certs and Notarizations each \$10.

**NEEDED:** Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

**DROP** ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

**ZELLE:** The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at [zellepay.com](http://zellepay.com). Customers should direct their payments to [business@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:business@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

**AD DESK:** 301-474-4131 or [ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

## CROWLEY CONSTRUCTION, INC.

Commercial & Residential  
**ROOFING SPECIALISTS**

**NEW ROOFS ♦ REROOFS ♦ REPAIR ♦ MAINTENANCE**  
**EMERGENCY REPAIR SERVICE AVAILABLE 24/7**

**ASK ABOUT OUR OTHER SERVICES**  
SKYLIGHTS | GUTTERS & DOWNSPOUTS | SIDING | WINDOWS  
CHIMNEYS | BRICK WORK | HARDSCAPING

**CALL TODAY FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATE**  
**(410) 643-3779 OR (301) 345-1349**

**[www.crowleycoroofing.com](http://www.crowleycoroofing.com)**  
M.H.I.C License #90063



## LAW OFFICES OF PATRICK J. MCANDREW, LLC.



Personal Injury, Civil, Criminal, Traffic Matters, DUI, Business Law & Incorporation, Estate Planning & Administration, and G.H.I. Settlements

**6305 Ivy Lane, Suite 408, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
301-220-3111**

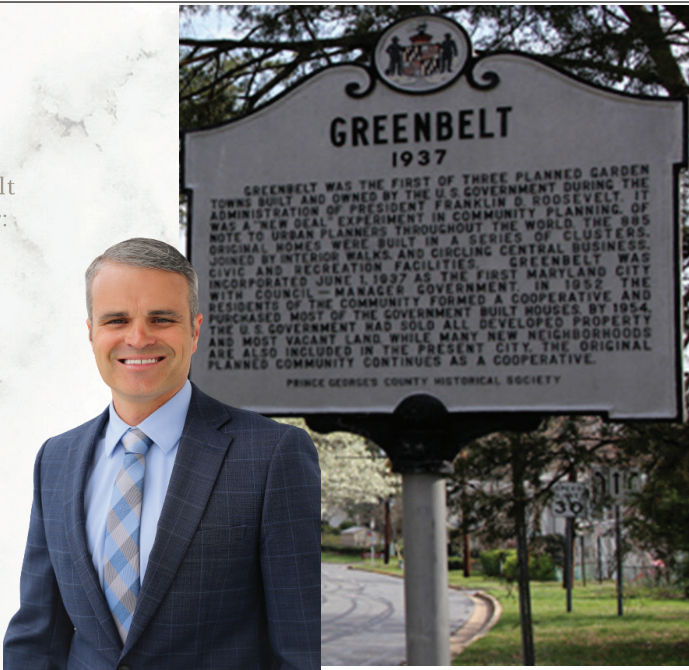


NCB has been financing at Greenbelt Homes for over 40 years. We offer:

- Fixed Rate Mortgages
- Competitive Financing
- Low Closing Costs
- Cooperative Expertise

**G. RYAN GREER**  
Senior Vice President  
(202) 349-7455  
[rgreer@ncb.coop](mailto:rgreer@ncb.coop)  
[www.ncb.coop/rgreer](http://www.ncb.coop/rgreer)  
NMLS #507534

Banking products and services provided by National Cooperative Bank, N.A. Member FDIC. NCB NMLS #422343



## Greenbelt Auto & Truck Repair Inc.



**159 Centerway Road  
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770  
301-982-2582**

[www.greenbeltautoandtruck.com](http://www.greenbeltautoandtruck.com)

**A.S.E.  
Master Certified Technicians**



A complete service facility equipped to perform all service requirements that your manufacturer recommends to comply with Preventive Maintenance service schedules & extended warranty programs! Also, routine repairs that keep your vehicles operating safely and reliably.

Auto-body, collision repairs and theft recovery damage  
A.S.E. Certified Technicians,  
Insurance Claims Welcome.  
Free estimates, please call for appointment



**Higher level of service  
at a lower cost**



**Agent  
Frances Fendlay  
240.481.3851**



**Lowest Selling fees**

**Free Staging**

**Free Pre-market  
Cleanings**



**Broker  
Richard Cantwell  
410.790.5099**

**"WE GUARANTEE THAT WE WILL BEAT OTHER BROKERAGE FEES FOR THE SAME SERVICES."**



**#1 in Sales for Greenbelt from 2017-2023**





Sports

Strong Girls and Boys Teams Enter Basketball Playoffs

by Patrick Gleason

The Eleanor Roosevelt Lady Raiders begin the state basketball playoffs with the second seed in the 4A South region after a 12-7 regular season campaign under Coach Delton Fuller. They ended with two exciting victories: a three-point overtime win over Wise and a 66-62 senior night win over Suitland, a team that beat them in their first encounter this year. While the Raiders will have to topple the C.H. Flowers Jaguars for the region crown, the team has improved throughout the season. Senior point guard Alicia Galban helps orchestrate the offense while the team spreads out scoring duties among a variety of players. Playoffs begin the week

of February 26.

Boys Team

Likewise, as the Eleanor Roosevelt boys basketball team looks to playoffs, they are playing their best basketball of the season under first-year coach Chaun Miller. They celebrated senior night on February 13 with a 78-50 victory over the Suitland Rams, a win that shows their growth throughout a season of change. The Raiders graduated a strong 2023 senior class and longtime head coach Brendan O’Connell stepped down in the offseason after winning four state championships in a 10-year span. After dropping the first four games to start the year, Roosevelt earned its first,

and more contested, win over Suitland with a 51-44 triumph on December 19 with a roster composed of mostly sophomores and juniors, including standout shooter Mason Douglas, who poured in deep threes against the Rams in their second matchup. Junior Benaiah Nwosu has also proved indispensable, offering the Raiders size in the paint and explosive leaping ability on the offensive end. The Raiders completed the regular season with a 7-11 record, but are playing their best basketball headed into playoffs; there they will look to upset either the top-seeded Wise or second-seeded Flowers for a region championship.



Senior Daevon Walker defends for a Roosevelt team that’s surging toward their opening round playoff matchup next week.



Junior Cora Moore pulls another rebound during a Senior Night victory over the Suitland Rams on February 13.

- Photos by Alphanmadou Jallow



PHOTO COURTESY ELEANOR ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL

This temporary classroom, immediately outside the back entrance to the school, announces Home of the Eleanor Roosevelt Raiders.

ARPA

continued from page 7

partnership with Franklin Park and enhancing recreational facilities will be put on the agenda for their next worksession. Salmerón said he planned to walk through Springhill Lake Recreation Center on Friday.

“I think we need to put a plan in place to raise the capital needed to redo the Rec Center,” said Salmerón. The tentative date for the new Springhill Lake playground, which is getting a half-million-dollar infusion, is March, he explained, though supply chain issues could delay it.

Councilmember Jenni Pompei said she had had many conversations with the late Councilmember Ric Gordon about the possible use of the pool space at Franklin Park and she would like to see a project to use it move forward.

Resident Farinaz Firouzi, of Charlestowne Village, joined the call for recreational facilities and programming for all residents, saying “this is a life and death issue,” as she noted what such programming and spaces could mean for young people. “If cities look at people who are renting as transitional people they also miss an opportunity,” she added, noting that she had previously been a renter in Greenbelt.

Jordan suggested the reallocation of remaining ARPA funds could be added to the agenda for the council meeting on February 26.

Call for Sports News

Do you have Greenbelt sports news to share?

We welcome your photos and stories at [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

S&A Plumbing Service Inc.

24/7 plumbing service needs

Garbage disposal, dishwasher

Leak, clog, faucets, etc.

Please call me.

Independent and local.

Prices reasonable.

Give me a call 240 988 8908

Time bank members receive “great discounts”

RICHARD K. GEHRING, HOME IMPROVEMENT

SPECIALIST IN REMODELING & REPAIRS

CARPENTRY – DRYWALL – PAINTING

KITCHENS – BATHROOMS

SIDING – WINDOWS – DOORS – DECKS

LICENSED – INSURED – LEAD PAINT CERTIFIED

MHIC #84145

PHONE 301-448-8703

Donald V. Borgwardt

FUNERAL HOME, P.A.

Family Owned

Pre-Need Counseling

By Appointment

Family owned and operated

4400 Powder Mill Rd.

Beltsville, Md. 20705-2751

(301) 937-1707

[www.borgwardtfuneralhome.com](http://www.borgwardtfuneralhome.com)

Traditional Funerals

Monuments

Cremation Service

Realty 1, Inc.

Our 38th Year in Greenbelt

301 982-0044

R1MD.com

Linda Ivy 301-675-0585

Mindy Wu - 301-661-5387

Leonard Wallace - Broker

301-675-9036

The Leader in Greenbelt Real Estate

4 Bedrooms & 2 Baths

Single family home with 3 full levels. Large fenced backyard with vinyl deck and shed. Wood stove/fireplace on lower level.

2 Bedroom Townhome

Large fenced backyard with deck - opens onto community parkland. Energy-efficient Mitsubishi mini-split heat pump/ac system.

Need to reach us right away?

Text 'Greenbelt' to 88000 on your cell phone and get an instant response! We can show you any listing in Greenbelt.

Scan here with your cell phone and go directly to our website! Search all of the MLS and more.

3 Bedroom Greenbriar Condominium

with 2 full baths. Remodeled top to bottom - modern kitchen, new closet doors throughout - a real showplace!

Single-Level Living

in Greenbelt Lake Village corner unit. 3 bedrooms & 2 baths with screened patio deck. Modern kitchen & laundry/pantry. Nice!

Coming Soon

3 BR townhome with opened kitchen and living room. Cinderblock construction with vinyl siding. One of the largest floorplans in GHI.

Coming Soon

2 bedroom townhome on large corner lot. Oak hardwood flooring on both levels. New thermal doors and windows. Call for more info.

Your Greenbelt Specialists

In Roosevelt Center

Since 1986

GASCH'S

Funeral Home, P.A.

Family Owned and Operated since 1858

4739 Baltimore Avenue

Hyattsville, MD 20781

301-927-6100

[www.gaschs.com](http://www.gaschs.com)

Traditional Funerals

Memorial Services

Cremations

Flowers

Caskets, Vaults, Urns

Pre-Arrangements

Large on-site parking



# Black History Month

## Review: Play Spotlights Historical Black Women and Their Importance

by Melanie Iverson



Scenes from Ms. Story's Living History, written and performed by Shemika Renée

For the next two weekends, Greenbelt Arts Center (GAC) offers the chance to meet different Black women who shaped our history and culture, rightfully shining a spotlight on those who are often missing from the history books.

Ms. Story's Living History, a play that is both ambitious and unique, was written and performed by Shemika Renée, a Maryland-born performer. Renée has been re-enacting and bringing to life historical characters for almost two decades. This performance offers a great and insightful opportunity to learn and celebrate Black History Month. Renée has chosen several Black women who have left a significant mark on our country and changed our history. "You may meet an entrepreneur or a pilot, an athlete or a soldier, an abolitionist or a seamstress, a politician or a gospel singer, an enslaved woman who tasted freedom in France or a mail carrier, an engineer of the Underground Railroad or a Union spy," GAC advertises.

Renée herself performs each segment and plays each woman in character. On the day this reporter attended, it was to enjoy a one-woman show about six extraordinary women. Renée plays each part with ease and engaging storytelling.

Simple props keep the focus on the characters with a short narration in-between to fill in

details of the women's lives. Photographs of the women are displayed at the end of each segment, tethering the artful performance to history and documentation, clarifying for the audience these characters, their reality and what their impact has been. Rikki Howie Lacewell directs this impactful work and helps ensure that each performance is successful. Renée's writing has a clear vision and a passion for sharing this history. Her performance brings history alive with a shining wholeheartedness.

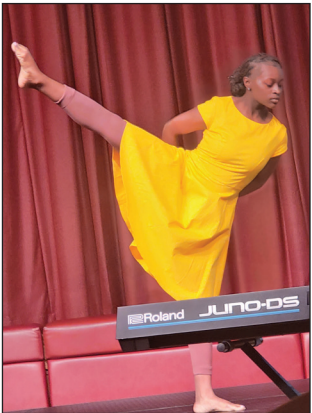
The production is worth seeing more than once because each weekend different women are highlighted. The play is appropriate for middle-school children and up, but may be interesting for older elementary-aged children who can sit for a couple of hours. The content warning advises: "This show is about BI-POC women in American history. The subjects of enslavement and civil rights will be addressed in a compassionate manner suitable for all ages."

This reporter recommends the show to anyone interested in learning about compelling figures in history. Every one of the characters that is brought to life on GAC's stage made a mark on our country and may inspire you to do the same.

Performances run through March 3. Visit [www.greenbeltartscenter.org](http://www.greenbeltartscenter.org) for tickets and more information.



Jefe



De'Jah Taylor

## ERHS Celebrates Black History Month with 'Forever Black'

by Li'l Dan Celdran

Eleanor Roosevelt High School's Black Student Union (BSU) hosted a Black History Month celebration, Forever Black: Black Excellence from Past to Present, on Friday, February 16 for students and guests from both ERHS and other area high schools.

The event began with the school's Gospel Choir rendition of Lift Every Voice and Sing followed by Hold On (Change is Coming) where the singers and audience clapped and sang along. Jacqueline Brown Woody, president of the Prince George's County Truth Branch of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), noted that Dr. Carter G. Woodson, educator and historian, is considered the founder of Black History Month. This year's theme, per the ASALH, is African Americans in the Arts where "the Arts connection to the Black

experience ... is infused with African, Caribbean and the Black American lived experiences."

The audience was treated to various performances including the band Roman Empire and gospel singers Yoseph Vanterpool and Praise passionately singing Stand Up from the movie Harriet.

The hosts led fun, interactive games and trivia, where selected audience members answered questions about Black History, and played musical chairs. The audience participated in Finish the Song. The most fun was watching students on a scavenger hunt in which they raced to find items such as black hats, coats and Crocs from audience members. Items were flying every which way.

Student models from DuVal High School and ERHS strutted their stuff to music in their fashions. All the students appeared to have a grand time posing and

throwing kisses to the audience. Seven students presented a Living Museum where they recited facts about the contributions of the person they represented. Greek Life members from the Divine 9 spoke of their organizations and encouraged students to learn more and choose the one that best fits them.

Students from Bowie State University presented slam poetry accompanied by the pianist and drummer from Roman Empire. Dynamic performances by the school's West Indian Dance Team and Dem' Raider Boyz Step Squad rounded out the evening.

Kudos and appreciation to Judith Barrera, BSU's teacher sponsor, and her students for this excellent celebration.

*Li'l Dan Celdran is an Eleanor Roosevelt High School parent.*

## Black History Cultural Event at the Community Center

The Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee presented the Black History Month Cultural Program on February 18 in the Community Center Auditorium. It

featured spoken word by Jefe and Whiskey Girl and performances by Nana Malaya, the Dancing Diplomat; Kalen Wright, hip-hop dancer; interpretive dance by

De'Jah Taylor, and a jazz performance by Eleanor Roosevelt High School students.



Speakers prepare for the Black History Cultural Program at the Community Center.



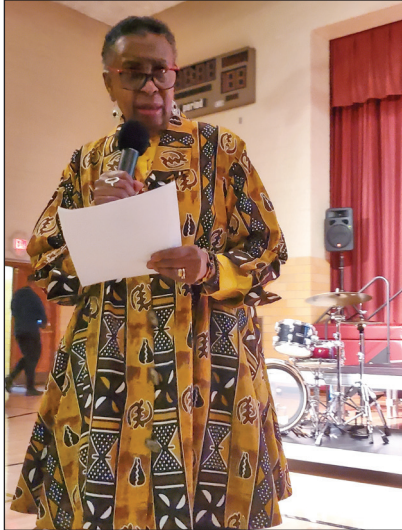
Whiskey Girl



Ben Bowlds, Nalen Ivantury and Jasmine Wilson



Nana Malaya



Dr. Lois Rosado

